

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 553 – SB 995

April 7, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes a presumption that any virus or other communicable disease, for which a pandemic has been declared by the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and for which the Governor has declared a state of emergency, which causes the suffering of a condition or impairment of health to an emergency rescue worker, shall be presumed to have been acquired in the line of duty, unless the contrary is shown by a preponderance of the evidence.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Currently, this presumption is extended to emergency rescue workers who have suffered a condition or impairment of health for either the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV).
- This legislation would add a virus or communicable disease, such as Sars-CoV2, that has been declared by the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and for which the Governor has declared a state of emergency
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 7-51-209(g), this bill will not apply to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS).
- All worker's compensation claims by emergency rescue workers will be paid by local governments as employers.
- It is assumed that establishing this proposed new standard will not trigger an immediate increase in the insurance premiums charged to participating members.
- Based on information by the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, any impact on the Bureau can be handled within existing resources without an increase in expenditures.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

IMPACT TO COMMERCE:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumption:

- This legislation will have no significant impact on jobs or commerce.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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